## NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVERING.

DOWERT THEATHE, BOWERY-LIVE-LADY OF THE BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway-Lany or Lyons-

MIELO'S, Broadway-Masaniello, BU ATON'S THEATRE Chambers street. Two FRIENDS

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TABERNACLE, Broadway - DEMPSTER'S CONCERT New York, Friday, November 18, 1853.

The News. The Arabia, from Liverpool, arrived at this port

early yesterday morning, bringing our Liverpool files the 5th, London to the 4th, Paris advices of the 34 inst., and interesting letters from our European correspondents to the latest moment. The news is fully confirmatory of the warlike intelligence brought by the Baltic. Omer Pasha had delivered an address to his

soldiers, in which he excited their martial ardor by strong appeals to their patriotism and fanaticism He then crossed the Danube and occupied the village of Kalefat, a post opposite Widin, which the Russians had previously abandoned, owing to the mortality which existed among the troops. There was no report to the effect that the armistice had reached the contending parties; but despatches from Vienna state that, even at the last moment, Austria was willing to reassume the part of active mediator, owing to recent assurances which the Cabinet had received from St. Petersburg. However, Prince Gortschakoff had left ucharest for Krajowa, where a force of ten thousand Russian infantry and some regiments of cavalry was posted, and it was momentarily expected that the announcement of a battle having taken place would reach London. Indeed, our correspondent in that capital, writing upon the faith of a telegraphic des patch, mentions that a serious engagement between the Turks and a portion of the Russian army had actually taken place, at a point between Kalefat and Krajowa; and also other conflicts were reported at Giurjova, a point on the Danube midway between Kalefat and Isaktchi, where the first engagement is said so have taken place on the 23d ult. Krajowa is between thirty and forty miles from the Danube, situated northeast from Kalefat. The new French Envoy, General Baraguay d'Hilliers, accompanied by a brilliant staff, had left France, en route tary representative of the Emperor Napoleon Sultan's court. It was said that England would soon despatch an officer of equal rank, in a similar capacity, to the same nation. It will be seen from the tabular statement which we publish that the Turkish and Egyptian fleets are by no means contemptible. The Persian Ambassador had been suddenly recalled from London. Our extracts from the foreign jourpals furnish extended reports and a summary of thi eventful drama, of the solution of which we hope to receive more decisive information by next steamer.

An Italian named Paperi had caused some difficulty between the American Vice Consul at Ancona and the civil authorities, owing to his alleged claim to American citizenship. It is not yet clear whether he was entitled to the protection he sought was merely afflicted with a mania for Koszta notoriety.

The Wigan riots had not entirely subsided in England, and some difficulties had occurred between the anthorities and the "strikers" at Blackburn

An unexpected and unusual rising of the Black water. Lee and other rivers in the south of Ireland had caused a great destruction of property, and one of the bridges in Cork being swept away by the flood, twenty persons were drowned. Some interesting items from China, and some new

views with regard to the developement of Australian resources, have reached us by this arrival.

The commercial and financial news is somewhat

unfavorable. The European news had the effect yesterday of producing a decline in flour of 182c. to 25c. per barrel and from three to five cents per bushel in wheat. Corn was but little affected. The middling and low er qualities of cotton declined an eighth of a cent per und. Coffee sold freely, and close i at an advance of a quarter of a cent per pound.

A meeting of persons interested in the proposition to extend the Bowery to Franklin square, and widen Pearl street from Franklin square to the Battery, was held yesterday before the Committee on Street of the Board of Aldermen, but the parties concerned not being prepared to discuss the subject, the consi deration of the matter was postponed to the 28th

The number of deaths on board emigrant vessels we have lately noticed has received a still further addition. The ship Empire, which arrived yesterday from Havre, left port with six hundred and seventy-five passengers, of whom seventy-three died before the vessel reached land.

The Board of Aldermen last night concurred in on to extend the Second Avenue Railroad to the Battery, by going through South street. There was no debate. Mr. Bard offered a resolution, which was appropriately referred, directing the Comptrol ler to advertise for proposals for land on which to erect a building to be known as "Firemen's Hall."

Further particulars of the recent flood in Connec ticut may be found in another column. A young female jumped overboard from one of the

Hamilton avenue ferry boats on Wednesday evening and was drowned. Every exertion was made to res cue her, but without success.

By the proceedings of the Board of Education on Wednesday, it appears that the amount required for the purpoke of meeting the current annual expenses erecting buildings, support of schools, salaries and incidental expenses—is \$624,263 48.

Our Washington despatch states that information has reached the State Department relative to the case of Captain Gibson. Mr. Belmont writes that a gross system of official despotism is practised at

regard to matters there is by no means exaggerated. | ing repetition of the statement soon overawed The Datch authorities pretend to have found among Captain Gioson's papers a letter from our government granting him a reving commission. This is denied, the letter being merely a private communication from a nephew of the late Daniel Webster, written while the latter was Secretary of State. The government at the Hague, it, is said, will thoroughly scrutinize this matter. Many members of Congress had

arrived.

Judge Mitchell delivered an opinion in the Central Park case yesterday, upon the powers vested in the Court as to the appreintment of commissioners, &c., and nominated the following gentlemen as Commissioners of Assessments :- William Kent, Michael Ulshoeffer, Luther Bradish, Warren Brady, and Jere'

The trial of John Price for the murder of Samuel Freeman was commence 1 yesterday, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer. There not being sufficient evidence to convict the prisoner, the jury rendered a verdict of "Net guilty."

The racest awful conflagrations which we have, for a long time, been called upon to record, occurred in our city yesterday morning. About half a million of dollars were swept away in a few hours, and at the same time hundreds were left without employment and without homes. These disasters may be summed up as follows :

streets
Insurance about.
Insurance about.
Number of buildings destroyed.
Number of families rendered homeless.
Number of men thrown out of emphoyment.
Less by the fire at foot of Fast Twenty-fifth firet, about.
Insurance nephable. street, about \$300,000 insurance probably 200,000 insurance probably 200,000 Number of buildings burned 9 Number of men thrown out of employment fully 1,000

Great credit is due the police and fire departments, for their zealous efforts to confine the disaster to the mallest limits possible. We give full particulars elsewhere.

The jury in the case of De Corn, charged with the murder of Eugene Melville, at a late hour last evening rendered a verdiet of " Manslaughter in the

George Lake, the man sentenced to be hanged at Poughkeepsie this day, for the murder of his wife and two infant children, will not be executed, a stay of proceedings having been granted by Judge Barculo. A copy of the legal document will be found else-On our inside pages may be found a report of the

Festival of the German Hebrew Benevolent Society; as account of an affray on a Western steamboat more about the alleged fraud by election inspectors: target excursions; a letter from Mr. W. C. Lane. about the Pacific Railroad; Court Reports; Coroners Inquests; Police, Naval, Personal, Commercial, Financial, and Mining Intelligence, &c., &c.

Action of the Senate and Congress upon the Spoils Cabinet.

Franklin Pierce has been living in an utter delusion for the last eighteen months. He has seen everything through a medium of such refracting power that the most simple events have appeared distorted to his eyes. Men and principles have assumed an untrue aspect as he examined them. His own opinions have shared the general metamorphosis, and he must often have been puzzled in trying to reconcile his acts to himself. Looking calmly over the events which have marked time since June, 1852, he must often rub his eyes and wonder whether the past is a reality or a dream.

We who know how painfully real it was, may perhaps succeed in solving the problem. When the democratic convention assembled at Baltimore, there was no politician in the coutry who had less hope of a nomination than General Pierce. By what juggle his name ultimately emerged from the ballot box, we all know; and we have the President's own word for asserting that no one was more surprised by the event than himself. Astonishment leading to inquiry, General Pierce committed his first error. He believed that his nomination was due to the regard in which he was held by the spoils seekers assembled at Baltimore, and lost sight of the fact that they had chosen him because they could not agree upon any other man, and because each faction there represented confidently hoped to make him their tool if he should be elected. The delusion began here: we shall see the canvas progressed, public sentiment began to pronounce itself for Pierce. This fact he again misinterpreted, attributing it to the influence of the combined spoils-seekers Marcy. Dix. Van Buren, &c.; when, as any impartial observer could have told him, the circumstance was wholly attributable to the strong current of public opinion on the Compromise question. Had Marcy, Van Buren and Dix opposed Pierce, instead of supporting him, the result would still have been the same. But General Pierce, in his incurable blindness, saw nothing of this, and overflowed with gratitude and pledges to those whom he regarded as the authors of his popularity. Finally, the election came, and his triumph was overwhelming. This was the culminating point both of his popularity and of his delusion. Surrounded on all sides by friends who crammed him with tales of what had been done for him by corrupt coalitions of men of opposite principles; constantly reminded that after Marcy and Van Buren, his success was due to the Baltimore Platform and Providence: and being, in plain words, a simple minded man, of small political experience, and judging of the world from what he saw in the little State of New Hampshire. General Pierce fell fairly into the trap, and laid his own reflecting faculties on the shelf. His thinking was thenceforth done by the coalition of spoils-seekers. He never tried-or if he did, he soon abandoned the attempt-to reason out for himself the real causes of his elevation from the rank of a petty lawyer in Concord to that of President of the United States, or the realiwill and purpose of the people in electing bim. It may have flashed upon him at times that he had done nothing to merit so striking a compliment as his nomination, and that the fact might possibly be due to the case with which the wire-pullers thought he might be managed. It may also have occurred to him in idle moments, that the unparalelled unanimity of opinion which elected him could hardly be due to the collective exertions of a parcel of men who, individually, had no influence to speak of. He may have glanced at the platform which he was told had done so much for him; and seeing what a close resem-

We say, these thoughts may have crossed his mind: for it is possible that the delusion in which he set out may have held too complete a sway over his faculties to permit any independent exercise of reasoning power. If he ever did indulge them, they were promptly checked by the Baltimore spoils seekers and their friends. He was told daily and hourly that the Baldmore platform and the Baltimore coalition had elected him, and that no other principle and no partie, and that the automent of the captain with I other man had had a hand in it. The perseyer-

blance it bore to that of the whigs, he may

have wondered how the same sentiments should

ensure defeat in the one case and triumph in

the other. He may even have allowed his

thoughts to wander back to the scenes of 1850,

and wondered whether the great contest which

was then terminated by the patriotism of Cal-

houn, Clay, Cass, and Webster, had not had

omething to do with his success.

any scruples be may have had. He resigned himself to the belief that his good friends. Marcy, Dix, Van Buren, and the rest, knew more about it than he did; honestly regarded Providence as, under them, the means of his elevation, and prepared to govern on the basis of their assertions.

continued from neigh to July 3

His Cabinet was chosen in perfect accordance with the theory. The coalition which he was told had elected him, being composed of men of all parties and all factions, he called all in to share the public plunder alike; and the Baltimore Convention being professedly a mere scheme for defeating the whigs, and monopolising the public patronage, be selected his officers on the sole basis of a fair distribution of the

How could he act otherwise? All this while he was living in the grossest delusion that ever muddled human faculties. Marcy and the others kept constantly before his eyes a false picture of the country and public sentiment, and never allowed him to see an inch further. A man of more independence would not have allowed himself to be so hoodwinked, for a week; but Gen. Pierce's character is confiding, and his suspicions are not readily aroused. He saw what was put before him by his official tyrants, did as they bid him, and nothing more.

There is at length a chance, at this eleventh hour, of seeing this fatal delusion dispelled. Marcy can hardly conceal from the President the facts of the New York election. He can hardly deny that he and his colleagues took a side in the contest, staked the credit of the administration on the issue, and were ignominiously defeated. He cannot prevent the President perceiving that in this Empire State, the opponents of his Cabinet are to its supporters as three to one. Nor can General Pierce help seeing how palpable a contradiction this glaring fact gives to the stories with which his mind has been poisoned during the last eighteen months. He cannot blink the prospect that when Congress meets, members of the Senate will rise and charge him with the faults of his advisers, and that Congress will contain four opposition members for every supporter of the administration. These are facts so glaring, so unmistakable, that nothing short of sheer blindness could fail to discover them.

The question, therefore, is, will the President boldly shake off the delusion under which he has been laboring? Will he anticipate the storm that threatens him by taking measures to repair the faults he has committed, and re-constitute his Cabinet on a sound basis? Will he spare the Senate the trouble of cancelling his nominations, by taking the lead in so necessary a measure? Will he act, in short, in such a way as will show to the people of this country that if he has erred in the past, it has been through error, and not from set purpose, and that the confidence they placed in him has not been entirely thrown away?

Commercial Intercourse with Japan, and British and American Policy in the East.

The Singapore Journal of Commerce, of the 16th of August last, in adverting to the American expedition to Japan, takes occasion to soothe the apprehensions of British subjects in the East who "talk about American East India empires in China, Japan, and heaven knows where." The editor corrects "the erroneous views entertained respecting the probable course of American policy in the East," by assuring his readers that there are "insuperable difficulties" in the way of America following the example of her great parent, in making settlements and found ing colonies beyond the American continent. The chief difficulty is that the constitution of the United States dues not ad mit of colonies, like the British empire. and the American republic can only absorb territory contiguous to it, such as Cuba or Merico. According to our East Indian conthe only annexation England has to fear from the Yankees in those distant regions; but, he adds, there is nothing she has to dread so much as commercial rivalry, and John Bull will leave nothing undone to prevent Brother Jonathan surpassing him in that direction.

The Singapore Journal is right. A war of commerce between the two nations has fairly commenced in the East. The struggle for the ascendancy will be carried on with all the characteristic energy and skill of the great competitors, and the contest will be watched with intense interest by the inhabitants of both hemispheres. On the American continent not only the political power but the commercial sway of England has gradually dwindled away to the shadow of what it was, while the young republic has taken her place, and asserts its supremacy over land and sea. The acquisition of California has now directed American enterprise to the islands of the Pacific, and to the shores which lie beyond that ocean; and the daring spirit of Yankee progress, following "the star of empire, which westward takes its way," till it travels around the globe, and rises in the east, has invaded the commercial domains of England in the Eastern hemisphere, where her "meteor flag" has so long "terrific burned." as the emblem of undivided rule, and the sign of a maritime power on "whose possessions the sun never sets." The war is now, therefore, carried not into Africa, but into Asia, and the battle fields will be China, Japan, Siam, Corea, Cochin China, (or Annam ) and perhaps India itself-baving in all a population of six hundred millions of human beings, or about twothirds of the inhabitants of the earth.

Whether the union-jack shall soon pale before the star spangled banner, in this contest of merchandise, is a question that remains to be solved. We shall anxiously look forward for intelligence of the conquests of our trade in the East, and shall be sure to inform the readers of the HERALD of every new acquisition. Much. very much, depends on the pending negotiation with the Japanese Emperor. We have made good beginning in China. Let it be followed up by a bold stroke in Japan. The great difficulty there, is to get in the point of the wedge. What is wanted is a combination of audacity and prudence. Only let America gain a foothold in the Eastern Archipelago, and she shall have a fulcrum upon which to rest a lever that will move the whole Eastern world. Let her fall in that, and her progress will be greatly impeded, retarded, and embarrassed. The importance of success, therefore, in this enterprise, can hardly be overrated. Japan is the key of the East, just as much as Cuba is the key of the Gulf of Mexico.

The nations that are most interested in the opening of Japan are Holland, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States. Holland is already in partial possession; and if she has not become much more liberal than she ever was before, will do her utmost to keep all the others out. This she can only effect by diplomacy, as the cays of her power are gone by. On the !

whole, she wo ald probably be a gainer by the opening of a' 1 the ports of Japan to all nations; but she har a not yet learned the policy of free trade. The Russian empire being in the immediate vicinity of Japan, the government of St. Peter burg naturally desires commercial intercourse with those islands; to Engla'ad, who has so established her power in India, and recently extended it to China, (both countries being adjacent to Japan,) a treaty of commerce and amity would be still more desirable. Russia and England (particularly the latter) are the two nations who have most power to coerce Japan, but have not yet tried their hand at that game, and probably never will. England-the strongest and the most interested of all-would no doubt be very glad to participate in the advantages of this trade, without any expense on her part, if the United States, either by a tremendous sacrifice of blood and treasure, or by the arts of diplomacy, should succeed in bringing the Japanese to reason. She believes in the doctrine that half a loaf is better than no bread. She will therefore remain with folded arms, biding her time, till the opportune moment arrives for stepping in as a disinterested mediator, in the event of difficulties between the Americans and this island empire; or, in the event of a diplomatic triumph on the part of our agents, she will come forward as a claimant of a share of the spoils, which cost her nothing to win. She will thus play a safe game. If the Americans succeed, she expects to be a gainer. If they fail, especially after hostilities, she will not be a loser, but in one important sense a gainer, for so far the lustre of the American prestige would be dimmed, and the English escutcheon would look all the brighter by the contrast. It is therefore pretty much like "heads I win, tails you lose." She cannot succeed by diplomacy, and it is very doubtful if she could succeed by war; but from American enterprise she expects comething. Almost all that could be effected in the way of hostility would be to destroy such of the small craft of Japan as came within range, and some of her ports by the guns of the frigates, or. by throwing shells into them. This would accomplish little or nothing practically, for Jeddo and Miako-the two capitals where the two emperors reside-could not be touched. Jeddo is a seaport; but from the shallowness of the water, no ship of war can come within several miles of it. The Japanese have no foreign commerce, and care for none; and therefore they cannot be injured at sea. They have no shipping to be destroyed, for the policy of the government being to keep the subjects of the empire at home, they are not permitted to build ships that could trade to other countries. They have only such small barks as they use around their own coast. These people, therefore, can live as well as they do now if all external communication were cut off from them. On the land it would be ridiculous to bring the small force that could be mustered at such a distance from home, against a warlike, brave and hardy population of thirty or forty millions, with an

mmense standing army. Diplomacy, therefore, seems to be the only course left open; and though that will be found extremely difficult, the United States for many reasons has the advantage over all other nations, and particularly England, in making attempts in that direction. It is true she has already tried her hand in diplomacy there, with but indifferent success; but there is no knowing what may be achieved by patience and perse-

verance. The first great advantage an American political agent possesses over other diplomats, and above all over a British diplomat, in negotiating with Japan, is to be found in the constitution of the United States, and our practice and history in reference to colonization, which is diametrically opposite to the career of Great Britain. The British gowith the aid of a great standing army and a powerful navy, conquers and takes possession of distant territories upon which they have no claim, and which have done them no wrong. They make them tributary, despoiling and plundering them with a strong hand. as in the case of the natives of India. In fact. they govern them by military despotism. The American republic had its foundation in reresistance to this colonial system of England. and therefore its constitution is framed upon antagonistic principles. No express provision is made in the constitution for even acquiring adjacent territory not belonging to the United States; and in the opinion of Jefferson, there was no constitutional power to make the treaty for the acquisition of Louisiana. But the President and Congress approved the act, and the nation acquiesced. The power is an implied one, and is an incident of sovereignty not at variance with republicanism; but to subjugate a people is hostile to democracy and the Declaration of Independence, which pronounces all men to be created equal, and to be endowed by their Creator with liberty as their inalienable right-If the American people, therefore, annex any territory, it becomes part of the republic, and shares all its rights, privileges and immunities, just as much as the original thirteen States; and whether the acquisition be part of this continent or an adjacent island, it must be sufficiently near to the States already constituting the Union to harmonize with their action, come under the operation of the federal law, and be connected with the country by geographical position as well as by political compact. Japan, therefore, has no cause for fear in coming into contact with the Americans. They cannot annex a territory so distant; and if they could and did, it would be on a footing of perfect equality, and without interfering with her State rights or local laws. They would merely require as a bond of fellowship that she should have a republican form of government, and that should

be the free act of her own people. Thus, instead of sustaining injury, a State annexed to the American republic derives the advantage of the powerful protection of the confederation without being made a vassal or tributary, or losing any of its sovereign rights. How different from all this is the British system and its effects, as exhibited in India.and whereever English rule prevails! From the days of Lord Clive and Warren Hastings down to the present time, the history of India has been stained with rapine and blood, and treachery and cruelty, and every crime denounced in the decalogue. Both these worthies were impeached before the House of Commons in vain. and the eloquence of Burke and Sheridan was lost upon Parliament, though the atrocities charged were proved as clear as day. What said Dr. Bowring, the present British consul at Canton, thirteen years ago, at a meeting in London for the purpose of relieving the wrongs

We are called together to consider the interests o

We boast that we are a civilized, a religious, an instructed ration. What of all these blessings have been conferred upon India? The inhabitants of that fine, that noble country, are not to be compared even to the Swiss upon his blesk and barren mountains. We are a large commercial country; but we have never extended the humanizing and civilizing blessings of commerce to India. This is an agricultural nation. What a picture does India present! Possessing boundless tracts of land, with every shade of climate, fit for the best productions of the earth, yet men perishing by thousands and hundreds of thou sands from famine, while the storehouses of the East India Company are filled with bread wrung from their toil by a standing army. We have boasted of our religion. Have we imparted any of it to the nations of India? We profess to be a well governed nation, and to be well acquainted with the principles of liberty, which we highly prize: but we have not given that liberty to India. We have not even made justice accessible to them. So far from imparting commerce to India, we like a live that which she commenced before. It is not many years since India supplied almost every European nation with cotron cloths. Now, we supply her with our fabrics.

In 1837 a famine in India swept off half a million of people, and it was brought on chiefly

million of people, and it was brought on chiefly by robbing the population of the produce of their soil, to fill the coffers of the East India Company. Multitudes starve every year from the enormous land tax. During these famines thousands sell themselves and their children into slavery for bread, to prevent their dying by starvation. Yet the United States is taunted by the British with negro slavery-a legacy left this country by themselves. The demorali zation of the people of India-men and women -by the British army and the officials, is too notorious to admit of controversy. All this grinding tyranny and annual decimation of the people, and all this immorality and profligacy, are perfectly well known to the Japanese authorities, through the Dutch; and therefore they want no connection with the British em-

Again-the history of the Chinese opium war is known to them, both through the Dutch and the Chiffese themselves-a war the injustice of which can be only paralleled by its novelty-a war to compel an unoffending nation to take poison prohibited by their own laws. The poor Celestials lost 20,000 men in the struggle, and had to pay \$21,000,000 to the British government. Such is the prostration of body and mind produced by opium-far worse than the most beastly excesses in intoxicating drinks-that even the British Commissioner, Mr. Martin, appealed to the humane feelings of the Queen to put an end to the horrible traffic, by which the average existence of men is reduced to four years, at the end of which they die a miserable When this opium conquest was completed.

Sir Henry Pottinger proposed to proceed

to Japan to claim satisfaction for re-

ceived insults, and to demand admission for British ships to those islands on terms of mutual mercantile advantage! But the Japanese Emperor, taught by the fate of China, took the right view of British reciprocity. At the time of the Chinese war, the King of Holland, frightened by the conquests of the British, and fearing that they might extend them to Japan, and drive the Dutch altogether out of the trade, wrote to the Japanese Emperor advising him to anticipate the blow by extending to all foreign flags the privileges of trade bitherto enjoyed exclusively by the Dutch. In rejecting this advice the Emperor wrote in reply that the results of the Chinese war taught him a very different lesson, and that was, that there was no safety but in the rigorous exclusion of the foreigners. Such was the reasoning of the Emperor of Japan; and on this point, we say American diplomacy has a tremendous advantage over English. Another ground of hope s, that there is no prejudice against the Americans, as in the case of the British arising from past insults or hostilities to so unforgiving a people as the Japanese. The manner in which Commodore Perry was received is a proof that the United States is regarded with more than ordinary favor; and this augurs well for the future. if nothing should occur to stir up an unfriendly feeling. Still, mere courtesy from so polite a people would be a very deceptive basis on which to rest the probability of a favorable reply to the letter of the Pre point to urge upon the Japanese Emperor is the humanity. justice, and mutual advantage of American intercourse, as compared with that of the European powers. But from the impossibility of gaining access to his presence, and the uncertainty of even communicating with him by writing-the officials being justified by law in intercepting all intercourse-it is no easy matter to present to him or his ministry a fair statement of the case. The Dutch. too. have got the ear of the authorities, and will not be very likely to promote the American cause. Add to this the difficulty of the lauguage, which an old missionary of the Jesuits once said Satan himself had invented, in order to obstruct the progress of Christianity in Japan, and it will be evident that the task of opening that empire to our commerce will require a rare combina. tion of firmness and skill, courage and tact, on the part of the agents of the American government.

OUR PROSPECTS OF MUNICIPAL REFORM .- The more we examine and reflect upon our chances of obtaining any decided improvement over the old system of city government by the new charter, and the new corporation elected under it, the less faith are we disposed to place on the realization of those desirable ameliorations. The Journal of Commerce had an article, a few days ago, on this interesting subject of good city government, in which that journal recommended the organization and building up of a clique, or party, outside of the corporation, to control and influence its proceedings. It was the attempts already made to bring the city under the improper influence of the corporation which have produced the difficulties with all the preceding reform movements; and it is only by a full. fair and comprehensive discussion of every measure introduced into the body, and by the action of public sentiment upon it. that we can gain any reform in the corporation. But there is no great cause for expecting any improvement to take place in our city govern ment, and we should be very agreeably disappointed, indeed, it any marked change for the better shall be manifested.

The great difficulty in the way of good municipal government in New York has been increasing of late years, in consequence of the influence of demagogues and the multiplicity o the executive heads of the city. The corporation, under the new charter, is possessed of merely legislative powers; and the executive power it is much more important to have vested in the one chief magistrate is divided among a number of different departments, each independent of the other and of the corporation. The Mayor possesses one species of power, the Comptroller possesses another and the heads of the different departments have specified powers of their own. From this, then can result nothing but disorder, confusion, and evil. The action of one may, and does, neutralize that of the other. And. indeed, we have a manifestation of the effect of the system in the entire management of city affairs and in the clashing of the different anthorities and the different departments. This

is an anomaly in the government, and can never turn out well. We are, therefore, forced into the conviction that all the cry for reform was positive humbug, and that they who believe in it will find themselves egregiously deceived.

LOCAL APPAIRS

THE RUSS PAVEMENT-AN EXTRAORDINARY Decision.-The decision recently made in the Subreme Court. in this city, confirming the injunction granted against the prosecution of the Russ payement in the Bowery, lays down a principle of law which, were it sustained, would neutralize the action of this or any other legislative body to which it should be applied. This principle is, in effect, that a tax payer has a right to object to any contract made by the city government; and that such objection or complaint is sufficient grounds for a court to issue an injunction restraining the carrying into effect of the contract. This puts it into the power of any individual to paralyze the action of the city government, and to render municipal legislation a nullity. Such a legal decision is not only opposed to common sense, but according to the best authorities is at variance with the daily recognized principles of common law.

However, we must be prepared to receive some strange legal decisions from time to time, owing to the mode by which Judges are now appointed. The popular election of Judges has always been considered by the most liberal minded men as a very doubtful system under any form of government, but more particularly under a democratic form of government. The practical application of such a system in this city is even more objectionable than the principle. In general terms, how are judges nominated in the city of New York? By committees selected by a few individuals at grog shops. These nominations have been heretofore, generally pretty fair, owing to the influence merely of past history; but these traditionary influences will soon be destroyed before the more powerful influences created by little conventions held in different parts of the city, and ruled by some grog shop politicians. In fact, the popular election of judges can only be well carried intoeffect in a thoroughly virtuous community, where nothing but morality and good sense can operate. Now we know, in political affairs, how much grog shop influence prevails in all nominations; and as a natural consequence, we must expect to find in course of time, in all legal decisions, some characteristics indicative of, and referrable to, the system by which judges are now appointed to office. That of the Supreme Court in the Russ pavement matter is one of the most extraordinary in our recollec-

ANOTHER REVOLUTION IN THE ISLAND OF CUBA .- There are a great many rumors in circulation in reference to the island of Cuba, and the foreign invasion and internal revolution which is ready at any moment to annihilate Spanish dominion there. We do not believe, however, that there is the slighest real foundation for such reports, or that Queen Isabella or Captain-General Canedo may entertain any very serious dread of their being verified. These rumors are all sham, and are only got up to influence in a particular manner the deliberations of the next Congress on the question of Cuba.

The English Opera.

The 'Crown Diamonds" was of course a triumph for Mme. Thillon and the English company. The weather was unfavorable, and many who would have been glad to hear her stayed at home; but the house was full, notwithrose. Even the bannister of the gallery staircase was at a premium. Were the English company to remain longer with us, we hould risk a criticism on the chorus and orchestra, which were by ne means a la hauteur du jour.
The prayer at the close of the first act—usually so effective and pleasing-was destroyed last evening, by the want of voice on the part of the singers, and the superabundance of sound on that of the instrumentalists. It is really a fine piece of music, and deserves a more careful render her. "Catarina," is perhaps her best part. It would in deed be difficult to display more grace and coquetterie in the acting, or a sweeter voice in the vocal portion of the role. One could listen for weeks, to her "Children of the Night," and few gallants would follow the example of the noble Spaniard, if the adleux of their lady-love were attered in as touching a tone as that in which the beautiful "Adieu, Senor," was sung last evening.

We shall have no opportunity of speaking of Mme. Thil-

lon for some months to come. As we said the other day, she is off to the land of gold. Californians are used to be as free and easy in the disposal of their treasures, as they are earnest and persevering in collecting them. Should they confirm their reputation in this respect, we may ex-pect our English cantatrice to return some months hence, Broadway Theatre-Mr. Anderson as Lear-

Mr. James Anderson played 'King Lear" at the Broad-

way theatre last evening. The elements were not propi-tious for a full house, and the theatre was only half filled. Mr. Anderson is an actor of practice—not of genius—and he acts more for effect than to give a natural rendering of the bard's creation. When we say this, it is founded upon the premise that Mr. Anderson studies the character which he is to play analytically, and then selects the good situations in order to impress the unthinking with the opinion that he is a great actor-leaving the judicious to "grieve," or do anything else that may best This is one of his greatest faults, and in no character is it more prominently displayed than in that under our notice in this article. The character of Lear is in some degree metaphysical—that is, it is so finely drawn that deep thought is required to penetrate its idiosyneracies and eliminate its beauties. Mr. Anderson'e Lear was a feeble old man in physique, with an as-tonishing strength of lungs, and one who was enraged upon slight occasion, but was a very mild specimen of a "dragon" when there was real cause for anger. The first two acts displayed some vigor and power, and the curse upon Goneril, (finely done by Mrs. Abbott), would have been capital, had it not been for Mr. Arderson's over straining at un important words, for Mr. Arderson's over straining in order to be effective in declamation. Rage, too, or in order to be effective in declamation. "wrath," as the writer has it, is much more to when it is deep, than when its possessor emits it in the shape of windy vehemence. The speech in the first act, "Detested Rite," &c. was better read than anything else of Mr. Anderson's in the play, and therefore deserves mention. He, in common with many other players that we have "seen play, and heardjoibers praise, and that highly," seems to forget that in Shakespeare, and more especially in "Lear," the people desire to hear the zoble language of the author, and have a right to demand that the actor shall give it to them plainly and fully, without shouting, vehemence, hoarse choking, or whining. We consider his acting of the long scene with Goneril and Regan a misconception. The language does not show that he succumbed to his children, and, with the old fire of majesty, the old command, and that dignity (which at that time could not have been broken, because there had been nothing to break it,) he would have been more likely to have expressed himself as an angry father and an outraged king, than to have read the lines with an affectation of pathos, which was strongly in contrast with his vigor in the denucciation of Cordelia, which had preceded it. These remarks will apply equally as well to the remainder of the play. He transformed the passionate, fiery king into a lackadaisical old man. He might have gained the sympathy of the audience, but, except in one or two instances, he did not call down their applause or excite their admiration. In the storm scene of the third act he was very weak, and Mr. Conway, who played Edgar with consider able ability, consentrated the attention of the house. Mr. Anderson's scene over the body of Cordelia was well and naturally rendered—almost the only quiet bit of actng he had favored us with in two hours and a half, therefore doubly welcome. In a word, Mr. Anderson gave us a "Lear" which was played at the audience, which failed

with them comparatively, and which was unity modifiers, when judged by critical rule. We wish that he gird a